Potential of cruise tourism

*317. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential for cruise tourism in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have constituted a committee to make India an attractive cruise tourism destination;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) the details of ports identified in the Eastern side of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A High Power Steering Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister Shipping, Road Transport & Highways with Union Minister of State for Tourism as Co-Chairperson to formulate Cruise Shipping Policy in the country. The recommendations of this steering Group include formation of Working Groups to look into issues like — Immigration; Customs Clearances; Quarantine Restrictions; Identification of Ports; Infrastructural Facilities; Connectivity; Taxation Issues; Tourism Related Issue; and Cabotage to develop cruise shipping policy for India.

(d) The ports identified on eastern part of the country are Tuticorin Port and Chennai Port.

New Airports in Metros

*318. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ambitious plan to construct new airports in all four metros viz. Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata in view of the congestion in the present airports due to increased passengers flow;

(b) if so, the stage of airports expansion and construction works in these metros; and